

Message Text

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APPROVED BY: EB/OT/TA:WGBARRACLOUGH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 295846

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJ: U.S. SANITARY CONTROLS ON CASEIN

REF: STATE 284015

1. DURING THE U.S.-EC BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS OF NOVEMBER 18-19, 1975, RABOT ASKED THE U.S. TO REVIEW THE SANITARY CONTROLS ON FRENCH CASEIN IMPORTED INTO THE U.S. HE STATED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT FRENCH PRODUCTION METHODS DESTROY FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) VIRUS AND THAT THEREFORE FRENCH CASEIN DOES NOT POSE HAZARD TO U.S. ANIMAL HEALTH.

2. WE INFORMED RABOT THAT FRENCH VETERINARY OFFICIALS HAD RECENTLY MET IN WASHINGTON WITH APHIS/USDA OFFICIALS ON THE CASEIN QUESTION AND THAT WE WOULD SEND HIM (THROUGH USEC) A REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING.

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MISSION IS REQUESTED TO CONVEY TO RABOT THE

FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

3. APHIS INFORMED THE FRENCH THAT TESTS CONDUCTED BY THE U.S. HAVE SHOWN THAT CASEIN IMPORTED INTO THE U.S. FROM FRANCE IS NOT ALWAYS A STERILE PRODUCT WITH RESPECT TO FMD VIRUS. CONTROLS ARE THEREFORE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT IMPORTED FRENCH CASEIN IS NOT USED IN THE U.S. FOR ANIMAL FEEDING PURPOSES. THESE CONTROLS REQUIRE TRANSPORT UNDER GOVERNMENT SEAL FROM THE PORT OF ENTRY TO APPROVED WAREHOUSES AND APPROVED PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENTS.

4. APHIS OFFICIALS STATED THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO REVIEW THE SANITARY CONTROLS WITH A VIEW TOWARD RELAXING THEM, CONTINGENT ON FRANCE FURNISHING HARD RESEARCH DATA SHOWING THAT THE PRODUCTION AND HANDLING METHODS USED IN FRANCE RESULT IN A PRODUCT COMPLETELY FREE OF FMD VIRUS. IN THE EVENT SUCH DATA ARE FURNISHED AND ARE ACCEPTABLE TO APHIS, THE SANITARY CONTROLS ON IMPORTED FRENCH CASEIN WILL BE RECONSIDERED. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO ESTABLISH A CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE ON THE USE OF APPROVED PRODUCTION AND TRANSPORTATION METHODS.

5. FRENCH OFFICIALS APPEARED TO UNDERSTAND THAT APHIS' SANITARY CONTROLS ON IMPORTED CASEIN ARE NECESSARY TO CONTROL FMD AND ARE NOT MERE PRETEXT TO RESTRICT IMPORTS. FRENCH SEEMED ENCOURAGED BY RESULTS OF MEETING AND APPEARED TO RECOGNIZE THAT NEXT MORE IS UP TO THEM. INGERSOLL

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